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FROM: Eric M. Nelson Reg. No.: 43,829

Application No.: 09/309,366

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**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION
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TO: Examiner Samuel Rimell
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FROM: Eric M. Nelson
Reg. No. 43,829

RE: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING OBSERVATIONAL INFORMATION
ITEMS
Application No.. 09/309,366
Filed: May 11, 1999
Our Reference No.: CDLIT.001A

DATE: August 3, 2004

I would like to discuss with you the following proposed claims amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing information in a computer, comprising:
 - assigning a bar code to a floor plan schematic of a building;
 - providing an item of observational information that is related to a construction defect of the building, wherein the defect is classified into one of a plurality of defect types;
 - assigning an identification code to the item of observational information;
 - annotating the floor plan schematic with the identification code;
 - scanning the floor plan schematic thereby creating a digital representation of the floor plan schematic;
 - associating in a table in the computer the bar code to the identification code; and
 - displaying, in response to a user request, the digital representation of the floor plan schematic annotated with the identification code and the item of

observational information, wherein the defect type and the identification code are displayed.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising assigning a defect code to the item of observational information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the item of observational information includes a textual description of the physical defect.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the item of observational information includes a photograph.

10. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the a number identification code is located on the floor plan schematic.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein associating in the computer the bar code to the identification code includes storing the bar code and the identification code in a relational database.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A program storage device storing instructions that when executed perform the method comprising:

assigning an object identifier to a graphical representation of a building, wherein the object identifier uniquely identifies a document;

receiving a request for the display of an observational information item relating to ~~a physical object~~ the building, wherein the observational information item includes construction defect information regarding the building;

assigning an identification code to the observational information item, wherein the identification code corresponds with one of a plurality of defect types;

scanning a floor plan schematic of the building thereby creating a digital representation of the floor plan schematic;

associating, in a table in the computer, the object identifier to the observational information item; and

displaying the observational information item, the digital representation of the floor plan schematic, and the identification code; and

displaying an annotated graphical representation of the building that describes the view associated with the observational information item.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of assigning responsibility for ~~construction~~ structural defects, including:

associating a plurality of subcontractor identifiers to a plurality of subcontractors;

associating a plurality of trade identifiers to the subcontractor identifiers;

assigning a trade percentage to one of the trade identifiers, the trade percentage identifying a cost to repair a structural defect for the trade identified by the trade identifier, the subcontractor being liable for the assigned percentage of the cost; and

generating a report that describes a subcontractor percentage of responsibility of a subcontractor for a structural defect based upon the trade identifiers and the subcontractor percentage.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing information in a computer, comprising:

assigning an object identifier to a graphical representation of a building, wherein the object identifier uniquely identifies a document;

providing at least one item of observational information that describes a characteristic of the physical object, wherein the observational information includes location information for the building, and wherein the observational information includes defect information regarding the building;

assigning at least one observational identifier to the item of observational information, wherein the observational identifier corresponds with one of a plurality of defect types; and

scanning the graphical representation of the building thereby creating a digital representation of the graphical representation;

associating, in a table in the computer the object identifier to the observational identifier; and

displaying the scanned graphical representation of the building.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising:
selecting one of the items of observational information; and
displaying the graphical representation of the building.
23. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising:
selecting one of the items of observational information; and
displaying the selected item of observational information.
24. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21, additionally comprising
assigning a defect code to the item of observational information.
25. (Cancelled)
26. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the object identifier is a bar code number.
27. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the graphical representation is a floor plan schematic.
28. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the item of observational information includes a textual description of a construction defect.
29. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the item of observational information includes a photograph.

30. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein the observational identifier is a number.

31. (Previously Added) The method of Claim 21, wherein associating, in the computer, the object identifier to the observational identifier includes storing the object identifier and the observational identifier in a relational database.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing information in a computer, comprising:

assigning a bar code to a graphical representation of a product;

providing an item of observational information that is related to the product;

assigning an identification code to the item of observational information, wherein

the identification code is classified into one of a plurality of defect types;

annotating the graphical representation with the identification code;

scanning the graphical representation thereby creating a digital representation of the graphical representation;

associating in a table in the computer the bar code to the identification code; and

displaying, in response to a user request, the digital graphical representation annotated with the identification code and the item of observational information.

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